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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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March 19, 1980

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Dear Ted:

Many thanks for your letter of March 3 commenting on our human rights report on Argentina. As you know, these reports to Congress represent our best effort to convey an accurate and objective picture of conditions in the countries concerned. In preparing them, we draw upon information from a variety of sources including nongovernmental organizations. The excellent report prepared by the Bar Association's Mission to Argentina was among the main sources we consulted in preparing our assessment.

Please rest assured that our commitment to seeking improved respect for human rights in Argentina remains undiminished. We will continue to make clear to the Argentine Government that the tenor of our relations depends to a large degree on human rights developments. We will continue to urge the Argentines to take steps to restore full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

With regard to the tragic problem of disappearances, you may know that the UN Human Rights Commission, with the active participation and support of our delegation, has decided to establish an expert working group to deal with the question. The working group will be empowered to seek information from governments and private sources, and is to bear in mind the need to respond effectively to this information. I enclose a copy of the text of the resolution. As you pointed out, the Human Rights Commission also took action on the Argentine situation under the confidential procedures established by ECOSOC Resolution 1503. The direct involvement of the UN Human Rights Commission in this issue represents an important advance in the effort to establish stronger international machinery for the protection of human rights.

Mr. Merrell E. Clark, Jr.,
President, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York,
New York, New York.

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I welcome, as always, your helpful comments and suggestions on our human rights policies and on the work of the Commission. The Association has contributed importantly to these efforts, particularly to the achievements of the Commission session which has just drawn to a close.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'Q' or 'G', is written in black ink.

Enclosure:

Text of UN Human Rights Commission
Resolution on Disappearances.